

#### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Congressman Visclosky notified Dune Acres of the opportunity to get taxpayer dollars for transportation projects. Road Commissioner Hull is aware of this program but DA has no projects that fit the qualifications at this time.

The Town of Porter 4th of July Celebration Committee asked Dune Acres for support and a donation, as well as an invitation to participate in their parade on July 4th. Since we'll be staging our own parade on the same day, we won't be participating in theirs. However, Jeffrey Swoger astutely noted that it might be a good way to unite and sow some good will with Porter given the problems we may encounter with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Dune Acres will donate \$50 to the Porter July 4th Celebration Committee.

#### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

**FIRE** - For Mark Bapst, Jan Bapst reported the Town's fire extinguisher inspections have been completed, the Clubhouse pumps have been tested, the kitchen's range hood is re-certificated and the sprinkler system has been checked. Mr. Swoger asked John Wilhelm to be the liaison to negotiate the contract renewal in December with the Porter Fire Department and/or any other local fire departments as necessary.

**ROADS** - For Mark Hull, Jeffrey Swoger reported the Town purchased a street sweeper attachment for Town's Mule, the small, red, 4-wheel drive utility vehicle, to sweep the streets of debris and sand. Only minimal spot road resurfacing need be done this year.

**PARKS** - Commissioner Kellie Klein reported that the current floodwaters have rendered the parks unusable. The repair and repainting of the tennis court fences is on hold as is the park clean up that was scheduled for Saturday, April 25. The summer kids' tennis camp schedule is being developed. Garbage cans and Port-a-Potties are on order -- besides the East Beach Parking Lot Port-a-Potty, one will be installed by the park. Kellie re-requested the Town Council consider spraying for mosquitoes this year. As it turns out, a rep from a mosquito spraying vendor is making a presentation to the Town Council in May. In the meantime, mosquito dunks are in inventory.

**BUILDING** - Commissioner Lou Mellen reported that the demolition of the unsafe structures at 31 Crest is still being pursued. Projects are being completed at 15 Oak Dr, 22 Summit Dr, 46 Circle Dr and 9 Beach Dr. The project at 12 Ridge Dr. is still being developed. Mr. Harris is still working on developing four lots on Summit Dr. Mr. Mellen also submitted a proposal to the Town Council to update our antiquated (and antique) Building Permit Fee Schedule. Currently the fees are based on an estimated project value. The proposal bases the fees on the common practice of a per square foot charge -- \$1.25/ sq. ft. in our case. While this charge is lower than some neighboring communities, it does address today's realities.

**MAINTENANCE** - Commissioner Dick Taylor announced a dedication for Lou Roberts: the installation of the Lou Roberts Timed-Light Switch for the Town Hall. Lou, nor anyone else, will ever need to leave Town Hall in the dark again. Furthermore, Mr. Taylor expressed to the Town Council that he hopes the new Building Permit Fee Schedule is not made retroactive... On a more serious note, Mr. Taylor and Mr. King have inspected and found all of the beach access stairs to be in good shape. The East Beach Parking Lot Port-a-Potty enclosure will be rebuilt from the ground up, using much of the existing wood. A tree service with a wood chipper in tow will be in Town on Saturday, April 25 from 9am - noon, driving around Town to chip fallen branches along the roads as we pick them up. Come out and help! A limited amount of timber from your property can be chipped, too, but you have to get it to the chipper. Sorry, no house calls! We will also have a dumper parked by the Town Hall -- anything *but leaves* can go in. Finally, remember that if a project needs to be done around Town, stop in at the Town Hall to fill out and submit a work order to the Town.

**POLICE** -- For Cecilia Call, Irv reported that Cecilia is researching commercial-grade replacement chairs for the Security Office.

ENGINEER - Irv Call reported that the Clubhouse's front doors have been temporarily fixed. The doors are okay but the casings are in bad shape and need attention.

ENVIRONMENT - For Cathy Bomberger, Jan Bapst asked that residents focus on Garlic Mustard in particular. BAG 'EM -- do not throw the pulled plants on the ground where they can (and will) go to seed! The Tree Committee Meeting-- not linked with Environmental Committee -- had 15 folks in attendance where some good discussion on "both sides" took place. The Committee will review the trees with red dots using a professional arborist and make recommendations accordingly.

CLUB HOUSE - The pantry is still leaking. Mr. Demkovich is seeking repair estimates. In addition, the Grimm's are talking with Mr. Demkovich about underwriting new front doors for the Clubhouse.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 2009-2, Amending the Dog Ordinance

After considering the numerous e-mails received concerning the dog ordinance amendment, some minor changes in the wording of the amendment were made as follows: (1) Failing to exercise proper care of the dog resulting in fouling of public or private property. (3) Appearing in any public place while not under the direct personal control of the owner and without a valid license issued by the Town Clerk-Treasurer. All unlicensed dogs must be leashed at all times while on Town property. (4) Exhibiting any vicious, aggressive, obnoxious behavior.

In short, Residents: License your dog. Control your dog. Clean up after your dog. Visitors/Guests: Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Clean up after your dog.

Also, the Town Council is talking with Porter Beach folks about some dog problems they're having with dogs running uncontrolled and fouling their beach, as well as ours.

*Folks -- this is just about simple respect for your neighbors. The Ed.*

Ordinance 2009-4, CCD Fund Re-establishment

Recall that the Cumulative Capital Development Fund was established at a rate of \$0.05/\$100 of assessed value and now stands at \$0.01/\$100. The Fund can be re-established at an increased rate of \$0.033, which is essentially triple the current rate. DA currently receives about \$11,000 annually from the CCD Fund. Reestablishing the Fund would triple the revenues to about \$33,000 annual. These tax dollars can be used for capital improvements or the general operations of the Town. The Council voted to table re-establishing the fund pending further investigation.

Flooding issue: For several days, an industrial-grade pumping operation has been pushing the floodwaters to the Town's south properties to relieve pressure on park and tennis courts. Messieurs Carstens, Mellen, Sullivan, Swoger and, in particular, Mark Hull have all been instrumental with the draining operation. The Town is still waiting for the Weaver Boos Consultant study and recommendations, which should be completed within two weeks. Mr. Mellen pointed out that we've had 15 months of record precipitation, which has lead to an extremely high water table.

The updated DA Telephone Directory is in the works.

### NEW BUSINESS

John Wilhelm asked that the CCD Fund be reconsidered at the next Town Council meeting. He felt there are projects in Town that could use the increased funds, such as to repair the flood-damaged roads, for example. He noted that raising taxes is never popular but the Town has maintenance issues that need or will need attention and funding. If the CCD Fund is not re-established until next year, the additional funds would not be available until 2011. Mr. Wilhelm also suggested that contractors be licensed to work in Town, a common practice in many other municipalities, as another way to increase revenues for the Town. Finally, Mr. Wilhelm acknowledged out-going President Lou Roberts' many years of service on the Town Council, along with the rest of the volunteers that enable Dune Acres to work so well.

*Bob Evans, Editor*

*April 23, 2009*

*Note: The official Town Council Minutes will be posted on the DA website after the Town Council approves them at which time this report will be removed.*